FBIS DAILY REPORT

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JUNTA HOLDS URGENT MEETING ON SOCIAL UNREST

PY302026 Paris AFP in Spanish 1616 GMT 29 Oct 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (AFP) -- The increasing wave of social dissatisfaction in Argentina threatens to shatter a social peace which the military government is struggling to maintain. The situation has become so worrisome that the military junta decided to hold an urgent meeting, thus putting the officially announced agenda forward by over a fortnight.

Army Commander Gen Leopoldo Galtieri has suspended the announced visit to the United States which he was supposed to begin on Saturday; Navy Commander Adm Jorge Anaya did the same with a visit to a province in order to hold the unscheduled meeting on Thursday morning with the third member of the military junta, Air Force Commander Brig Omar Graffigna.

Yesterday the government suffered a setback when the Peronist party, generally considered the main political force in the country, refused to participate of the government's political dialogue implemented by the Interior Ministry and aimed at facilitating its relationship with the opposition.

The disagreement on the implementation of the governing military leadership's socioeconomic program has led the General Labor Confederation [CGT, Peronist] to call a peoples meeting on 7 November which will end at the Church of San Cayetano, who is the workers' patron saint, a meeting to which the government is giving its utmost attention.

The latest repressive measures which were considered harmful by the journalists union, after the mistreatment given to two photographers who were covering a prohibited students gathering, the arrest of sympathizers who sung the Peronist hymn at a football stadium and the ban on a well-known tango, contributed to weaken even more the already weak official image.

The deterioration of the economic situation in addition to the loss of $500 million in October due to a drop of foreign currency, the threat to the harvest -- the main sources of exports -- due to the droughts in the country, are also a government concern due to its $30 billion foreign debt.

The prickly southern border conflict with Chile -- Buenos Aires has voiced its opposition to the proposal for a solution to it issued by the pope on 12 December -- is another reason for the sudden meeting to be held by the military committee comprised of the three commanders and the president of the nation.

Army Commander General Galtieri has stated that the pope is a mediator in the conflict and not an arbiter, thus suggesting that the proposal need not be accepted as something infalible. By these statements Galtieri implicitly supported that statement made by a retired officer last month, asserting the rejection of the proposal by the Argentine Government.

Radicals' Document on Crisis

PY012127 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 31 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- The Radical Party issued a severely-worded document last night which declares that "...conditions have been created for social protest to seek out its own channels of expression in extreme circumstances."

Signed by members of the radical's national committee, the document says that "the solution to economic and social problems are united and subordinate to the solution of institutional problems."

"On the eve of the armed forces government's sixth birthday, nobody can question that the republic is threatened by the most serious crisis in its history," states the document, which is entitled "New Message in Light of the Economic Situation." According to the radicals, "...The crisis has demolished the productive structure, delapidated enormous reserves, placed generations of Argentines in debt, and deprived million of homes of their work and of social security."

"Extensive popular sectors and the middle class have been driven to indigence or extreme poverty, while the holders of financial power, native and foreign, have amassed huge fortunes," it says. "It would be dramatic if the people and popular political forces continue to accept such grave injustices in silence" in a society "which deprives people of the right to voice their opinions and workers who find themselves without jobs or with reduced wages to sign work agreements." The party demanded the government "to make a substantial change in economic policy to serve the interests of the productive sectors and national industry, to increase employment and raise real wages."

PRESIDENT VIOLA DISCUSSES LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION

PY300300 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1400 GMT 24 Oct 81

[Text] Salta, 24 Oct (TELAM) -- President Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola affirmed here today that integration can only be accomplished in Latin America by starting from the subregions in order to converge, in a gradual process, toward the final objective of a Latin American economic community. He said that there are no contradictions between regional economic integration and the internal economic integration of a country. With the speech in which these statements were contained, Viola closed the seminar on the development of regional foreign trade organized by the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA).

Following is the complete text of the president's speech:

In this huge region of the world which comprises Latin America, the economic integration process between its several nations has a logic and dynamics which arise with their own unavoidable clarity.

The scarcity of communications, the development of coastal civilizations, the existing difficulties in matters of internal integration, determine the practical impossibility of applying a single, overall scheme for economic integration to a broad and unequal mosaic of national realities, which harbor within them individual complexities. On the contrary, this same state of affairs seems to demand an advance channeled toward a relationship of the parts toward the whole, an advance from the edges toward the center, and from the subregions toward the region. In this way, it is only suitable that the development of the multiple aspects that we have in common -- summed up in the agreements and understandings that have been forged in order to solve the differences which also exist -- can serve to provide a solid base in order to later accentuate the outlines of an economic system that will enjoy an increasing degree of special consensus from the nations which compose it.

Without a doubt, this reasoning has guided our nations' will to understand how indispensible it is to find paths to unblock and stimulate the advance toward an objective that we all share.

The replacement of the LAFTA [Latin American Free Trade Association] with the LAIA is an essential chapter in this search for a strategy of economic integration based on the geography of the region, on its history, its antecedents and on its concrete reality much more than on general theoretical formulas. The essence of the LAIA founding treaty is the conviction that in Latin America integration can only be accomplished by starting from the subregions in order to converge, in a gradual process, toward the final objective of a Latin American economic community.

For this it is important that everything which is accomplished in the subregions in order to advance concrete plans and integration agreements have a solid base by being founded on real facts. A subregion is determined naturally, it springs up with a certain spontaneity and is not established by authority.

However, the very existence of business organizations which spontaneously joined together in order to achieve an integration shceme with homogenous bases, for example the GEICOS Interregional Businessmen's Group of West Central South America, demonstrates that it is in the self-interests of the active participants in the community to make arrangements with neighboring areas of different countries in order to reach mutually beneficial agreements. No one can know better than the very ones who are involved where the paths lie to securing their prosperity. And, whenever they themselves form organizations tending to set in motion an integration process on a subregional basis, they are with this fact, spontaneously telling many theories that there is no contradiction between the national and the regional. Simple reflection confirms these assertions. The subregions on our continent often surpass national boundaries, and only with combined action by the authorities of different countries can concrete plans capable of awakening the potential energies of that subregion be put together.

Geography, economic relations, the intensity of exchanges of all types, human contacts will with the passing of time give shape to subregions.

It is precisely by this identity of problems and aspirations that a political will can be consolidated, a political will which is absolutely indispensible for and the forerunner of the whole concrete process of integration.

The conclusion is simple: The subregion is the basic cell of the political will which will permit the formation of intergration formulas that are able to overcome the test of time and to get tangible results and benefits for the societies included in thos projects.

There are no contradictions, as is claimed, between the regional economic integration and the internal economic integration of a country. This theme has been claimed many times to be a proposition of opposites.

Without an integration process to smooth out the differences in policies and in legislation which might exist in a subregion which tends to be homogenous in its economic structure and geography, it would be very difficult to achieve full development in that area.

My government firmly believes in an integration process on realistic bases, not founded on utopian terms. Because of this it supports integration schemes which are established in subregional groupings, because it knows that these constitute the true driving force of a genuinely dynamic process, that these will act as the lever for substantial development of extensive regions of our nation, which are sometimes lethargic due to the excesses of centralism, but also due to the lack of paths for realizing their potential for serving their common interests with contiguous zones of other countries.

Of course, that process should be founded on total respect for the sovereignty of each of the nations, and on free and voluntary bases arising from the very heart of the forces of society, strengthened and assisted in the fuller exercise of national sovereignty on questions of complete currency.

Without a doubt, the opening of greater economic prospects, which is its natural consequence, will make viable projects and investments which would be more costly or completely inaccessable if they were carried out unilaterally. It opens -- as is happening, above all in the energy field -- possibilities of production, of compensation and of exchanges of enormous scope. And from it can only arise -- let us understand it well -- a greater measure of autonomy, of effective independence, and, therefore, the complete exercise of sovereignty on the part of the states integrated in the regional or global context.

Starting from this observation, it is easy to conclude that the integration that we seek, by the very act of creating greater economic bases, can constitute a true source of power for effective negotiation for the subregions, which in this way realize their will to associate, and, by extension, for the entire region. The power of negotiation would be useful, ultimately, for perfecting agreements or reasonable transactions in fields as important as extra-regional investment and technological exchanges. It is clear, consequently, that in our concept integration will not only be carried out with absolute safeguards for sovereignty, but also that integration is able to consolidate that sovereignty and strengthen it in practical areas and in factual ways.

I believe that is these words have successfully provided a political frame of reference for the task of understanding and information exchange which you have all carried out at this seminar, they will have accomplished what I intended. I only wish to congratulate you on your work and to applaud once again the fact that this meeting has taken place in a region of Argentina which is particularly attentive to the results which can arise from the policies of integration and the action of the organizations which, like LAIA, have the mission of carrying it out.

SIGAUT EVALUATES HIS 7 MONTHS IN OFFICE

PY302342 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1515 GMT 29 Oct 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Speaking today at the Argentine Chamber of Advertisers, the Argentine economy and finance minister said that the present rules on the exchange rate will be maintained. Lorenzo Sigaut said, moreover, that the future of Argentina lies in achieving a productive economy and in eradicating harmful speculation practices by adopting all necessary measures leading to a better operation of the market and the financial system.

In his speech, the economy minister reviewed what has been done in the past 7 months of his administration and discussed the present situation and the national objectives included in the 1981-84 economic program. He began by noting that the first 3 months of 1981 showed a high foreign indebtness level, with many maturations and a negative balance of payments and balance of trade that were carried over from the previous year. He added that the over-valuation of the peso promoted imports and caused a monthly negative balance between $300 to $400 million, noting that the successive adjustments of the exchange rate corrected the distortions caused by this deficit which, moreover, caused tourists to spend huge amounts abroad.

He reported that at mid-year the balance of trade began to register a positive balance yielding a surplus ranging from $300 to $400 per month; and later he discussed the schedule of payments on the foreign debt. In this regard he said that the deadlines have been extended through several measures and that these obligations were concentrated from April to September 1981. He noted that the foreign debt situation had improved since October once this concentration of payments had been overcome and added that to meet future foreign debt deadlines the government will rely on those revenues derived from normal trade transactions -- that is, the surplus of the balance of trade -- the normal financing of the private sector, and on the international capital market for the public and private sector, within which Argentina is operating on terms of 7 or more years.

Sigaut also said that after the over-valuation of the peso had been eradicated, the new parity exchange rate led to a more profitable economic situation in the agricultural and industrial sectors, promoted exports and discouraged the subsidising of imports, but that it increased the recessive process in those areas [words indistinct] for not operating with internationally salable goods.

He added that it will take a certain time and investments to recover those markets that have been lost, and noted that in some cases there has been an immediate adverse reaction (after the adoption of several measures) such as in the exports of agro-industrial products and (?those) which experienced competition from imported products, but this sector yielded an immediate positive response to those measures adopted to make it more profitable.

He noted the record shipment of grain in the second and third quarters of the year, the increase in the sowing and other issues, adding that time will tell what results are achieved in the agricultural sector because this depends on the annual production cycle, and on industry because it is also a matter of time to reactivate those sectors having large stocks of domestic and imported products and a high degree of indebtness. He alluded to the agreements signed with the automotive industry and with the agricultural equipment and tractor factories and outlined the main objectives established by the armed forces, among which is to reactivate agricultural production on a realistic basis and to promote traditional and nontraditional exports. He said he was making this reference to help people understand the policies that are being enforced and the measures that have been adopted.

Sigaut also discussed the problems affecting the productive sector that have been harmed by the positive high interest rates adding that these increased the difficulties of most of the clients of the financial sector and complicated the financial system itslef. He said that in view of this the government has established measures, including the refinancing bonus, to grant those enterprises the needed time to divert the high financial load and it has established payment plans so that these enterprises may fulfill their tax commitments. He said that measures to normalize the situation of financial companies have been established and a draft law that will strengthen and unite the system is under study.

Regarding the public sector he said that the deficit in this sector increased last year due to problems in the financing system and the VAT [value added tax] reform; and he noted that during the present administration current charges and capital charges decreased in real terms, but because of a decrease in imports and a decrease in taxes generated by the recession, the deficit increased. In this regard, Sigaut explained that public expenditures will gradually decrease in the 1982-84 period until it is less than 35 percent of the GDP. He was optimistic regarding the behavior of several sectors since the recession eased between the second and third quarters of the present year, and he reasserted his belief that there will be a gradual recovery. He noted that the inflation rate has been decreasing in the last 3 months and that the October inflation date totaled 6 percent.

At the end of his speech Sigaut said that the agriculture minister will give a report on the freedgrain harvest and added: We are certain that these figures will not register the negative results that some irresponsible sectors are alleging. The economy minister noted that the government will continue to exercise its economic normative and regulating role and its irrevocable responsibility for decreasing expenses of the public sector and curbing inflation.

ALENDE BLAMES MILITARY FOR REGIME'S FAILURE

PY300141 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1512 GMT 27 Oct 81

[Text] Mar del Plata, 27 Oct (NA) -- Oscar Alende, leader of the Intransigent Party [PI] held the "military leadership" responsible for "the current regime's failure" and pointed out that "when the leadership reaches a phase of decadence, a natural change takes place in order to try to preserve the prestige of the armed forces." Alende stated that the current Argentine situation "is very similar" to the historic period known as the "infamous decade" and recalled that it was not the civilians but a "military coup" which ended that period. [as received]

The political leader, who made these statements to the local daily EL ATLANTICO, warned that "today we are experiencing the crisis of subordination to foreign interests, no longer to states but to the multinational enterprises," and sustained that "we are faced with the failure of this regime of the military leaderships, of this system by which three commanders who are not trained to govern decide what 28 million Argentine citizens have to do." He asserted that "the only way to solve this is for the military to return to the specific tasks, which are not the mere custody of our borders but the preservation of the national heritage." He ended by stating: "I believe that some leadership will take the decision, because I don't know of any military leadership which has endured failure without going unharmed."

DELEGATE TO MEDIATION ON DEADLINE, CAMILION TRIP

PY311640 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Oct 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Oct (NA) -- Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo, a member of the Argentine delegation to the pope's mediation over the southern border conflict, today commented on remarks made in China to the effect that the deadline for finding a solution to the conflict is the end of the year by saying: "I want to make it very clear that there are no deadlines."

In his statement at Ezeiza International Airport, made upon his arrival from Rome, Etcheverry Boneo indicated: "I respect the official opinion of the Chilean Government and they must have their reasons for voicing this desire," but explained that "the Argentine Government is making the efforts, spending the time and using the methodology it believes most suitable for the protection of its interests and this cannot be either tied to or restricted by any other [kind] of influence or decision."

Etcheverry Boneo said that the meeting held between Pope John Paul II and the heads of Argentine and Chilean episcopacies Raul Primatesta and Raul Silva Henriquez, respectively, was "very important" and that "one can easily deduce that that it had been aimed at requesting support and cooperation, especially spiritual support and cooperation, for finding a solution to the conflict."

Asked about the degree of truth in news media reports that have claimed that the mediator is "anxious" to receive Argentina's answer to the Vatican document which Apostolic Nuncio Ubaldo Calabresi delivered to Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion last week, Etcheverry Boneo said that "on this issue, if we concentrate on whether there is an answer, that there has been an answer or that the answer is yet to be given, all I can say is that the Argentine Government has, in fact, already given an answer."

As to the possible influence which the meeting of Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion with Pope John Paul II and other Vatican officials may have had on the mediation, Etcheverry Boneo indicated: "It is very important to make it clear that the efforts of the foreign minister have been a personal affair," and that "the delegation has been operating exclusively on instructions of the military committee from the very beginning of the mediation and therefore I can make no comments on this subject."

Further on Mediation Deadline

PY310108 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 30 Oct 81 p 3

[Text] Argentine Government alternate delegate to the papal mediation, retired Gen Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo said yesterday that there are no prospects over the short term for reaching a final agreement with Chile on the southern border dispute. Boneo revealed that yesterday afternoon he met with Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion in San Martin Palace to explain to the minister the statement he made at Ezeiza Airport last Wednesday upon his return from Rome.

Boneo said: "My statement was misconstrued. I said that the mission in Italy was a personal mission, but not of a personal nature." The chief of the delegation, Ambassador Guillermo Moncayo, told CLARIN earlier that Boneo's statement "did not in any way disqualify" the mission carried out last month before the Holy See and Msgr Agostino Casaroli. Boneo explained that the foreign minister undertook a personal mission because "we, as member of a delegation function, did not participate in that mission, either as advisers or as intermediaries. He added that neither his nor Ambassador Moncayo's presence in Buenos Aires is directly related to the preparation of the reply to Pope John Paul II, because that task "is being handled by the Foreign Ministry." Boneo noted, however, that should the analysis of the papal document require consultation with the delegation, "we will participate, because we are in a position to give an opinion on some aspects."

The alternate delegate also noted that all missions receive specific directives from the military committee, which is complsed of the commanders in chief of the three branches of the armed forces and the nation's president.

Answering a question, Boneo said that in Buenos Aires the delegation will study several concrete topics which are under negotiation, and dismissed statements by Chilean officials that there will be a general solution before the end of the year. Boneo elaborated: "Chile has given its view, but I do not for the time being foresee any prospect for a conclusion as seen by the neighboring country. "The negotiators are working on the draft of a treaty, beginning with the premise that they have approved the papal proposal of 12 December 1980. They envisage the implementation of that proposal and are preparing the draft of a treaty...that's fine. They have great optimism. Good. But it is an opinion, a position, the work of one of the parties."

MINISTRY DENIES CHILEAN TERRITORIAL CLAIM

PY301805 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1555 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Oct (NA) -- Today the Foreign Ministry reiterated that the national park "Los Glaciares" which is located in Santa Cruz Province, is totally on Argentine territory and rejected the Chilean claims on this area made during an international forum.

This information was released today through a press communique after it was learned that Chile had asserted at an international meeting that that territory belonged to it.

The communique also reproduces Argentine delegate Roberto Palarino's rejection of the Chilean representative's statements.

The incident took place during the sessions of the UN's World Patrimony Commission, being held in Sydney, Australia.

Palarino's answer to the Chilean representative was, according to the Foreign Ministry:

"Regarding the statement made by the Chilean representative on Los Glaciares National Park, the Argentine delegation categorically rejects this unfounded declaration since the entire extension of Los Glaciares National Park is undeniably located in Argentine territory.

"This is the first time that Chile (?has tried) to question the borders of that area. Los Glaciares National Park, created in 1937, encompassed an unquestionable, effective and peaceful occupation of a zone which belongs to the country according to the border treaty signed by Chile and Argentina in 1881."

PRESIDENT TORRELIO CALLS FOR COOPERATION

PY301950 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] President Celso Torrelio Villa has given instructions to the government comptroller general to submit the contract documents ready to be signed authorizing the construction of the Chimore-Yapacani highway. During a conversation with reporters at the security air base, the chief of state answered several questions. He said he is open for dialogue with all representative institutions and people. He added: I call not only on institutions, but on all Bolivians to cooperate with the government to preserve the tranquillity and peace of the Bolivian people. He went on to say that any constructive suggestion that does not go against the Bolivian people will be well received. President Torrelio also indicated that the government is studying several regulations now in force in the country in reference to questions about the national radio network. He also announced that he will deliver a special message tonight for the anniversary of the nationalization of the mines to be celebrated tomorrow.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER HARSHLY CRITICIZES BUSINESS

PY302309 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] [Begin Gen Natalio Morales recording] Now that a decision has been made to clean up the scum that hurt the country, when there is a desire to promote patriotism and grant the people an appropriate democracy through the gradual but sure steps that are now being taken so that the armed forces will become again the highest guarantee for honest elections, high-sounding voices have appeared trying to precipitate this experiment which has no precedent in our history. [end recording]

These remarks are part of speech delivered today by Gen Natalio Morales Mosquera, commander of the Bolivian Air Force, FAB, and aeronautics minister, on the seventh anniversary of the creation of the security and defense group of air installations. The air force commander harshly criticized the position taken by some (?business) sectors particularly during the difficult times the country is experiencing. [Begin Morales recording] These pressure groups were in government on several occasions and the armed forces know them. These are the same minority groups which obstructed the hopes for nationalism, denying the people their just aspirations for a better future. [end recording]

He added: The time has come for these sectors which have received benefits from the state to return the support they have received in order to help the country come out of the current crisis. [Begin Morales recording] During and after the liberal policies which private enterprise most frequently used as a political model, this group has received from the state all kinds of support. Let us hope that this sector of the national economy will return to the country what it has received from it. [end recording]

Regarding the role played by the military governments in the country, General Morales Mosquera said: [Begin recording] The people should not forget that the military governments, aimed at safeguarding the future of Bolivia, have implemented the rational exploitation of the country's natural resources by carrying out very important enterprises which now, due to their magnitude, also support other private enterprises. Therefore the state has become equally beneficial to the collective interest. [end recording]

In conclusion, the FAB commander called for the unity of all sectors. [Begin Morales recording] This is why we are exhorting the business sector of the country to join the large civic crusade called by the government. This is the time when all Bolivians must join their efforts in the common task of working for the country with sacrifice and indestructible unity. [end recording]

BELIZE

PRICE FAVORS NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WITH GUATEMALA

PA010450 Paris AFP in Spanish 0343 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Belmopan, 30 Oct (AFP) -- Belizean Prime Minister George Price has reiterated that Belize is willing to find a negotiated solution to its dispute with Guatemala, which opposes the independence of this former British colony.

The "bases of understanding," a 16-point agreement reached by Great Britain and Guatemala on the independence of Belize, are still a possible solution to the British-Guatemalan dispute, Price told the Chamber of Representatives.

"Our first priority in foreign policy," he added, "is to help find a solution to this problem."

Guatemala separated itself from the provisions of the bases of understanding when Belize rejected Guatemala's interpretation of the third clause, which concerned the granting of rights equivalent to sovereignty over the Ranguana and Zapotillo Cays in the Gulf of Honduras.

Price's statement was a reply to opposition leader Theodore Aranda, who criticized the government's support of the bases of understanding.

Aranda's United Democratic Party believes that the dispute is between Guatemala and Britain, and that since Belize has achieved independence it shouldn't get involved in the dispute.

Both Great Britain and Belize have reiterated their desire to conclude the negotiations, but Guatemala's decision to close the border with Belize and to break relations with Britain has made the possibility of renewing negotiations more difficult.

"We think that they want to renew the negotiations as much as we do," a British diplomat has said here, "but having gone so far, it would be difficult to justify it; and the forthcoming electoral campaign makes the possibility of doing so even more remote."

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH UNITED KINGDOM

FL300209 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] An agreement for continuing economic cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Belize Government was signed this morning in the prime minister's office in Belmopan. Signing on behalf of the Belize Government was Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, (?Finance) and Economic Development Honorable George Price. Signing on behalf of the British Government was His Excellency the High Commissioner to Belize Mr Frank Trew.

There was also an exchange of letters between the prime minister and the high commissioner for the transfer of resources amounting to 6 million pounds sterling in grant form. This is half of the independence transfer of resources amounting to 12 million pounds sterling, the equivalent of 45 million Belize dollars. The other half will be in the form of loans.

The agreement provides for the training of Belizeans in the United Kingdom and Caribbean region. There is also a provision for technical cooperation (?loans) on long and short terms, consultant fee services and surveys, research projects and small capital grants not normally exceeding 100,000 pounds.

Following the signing of the agreement, Prime Minister George Price said the event highlights the continuing agreement of the UK-Belize economic cooperation program which continues after independence. The prime minister added that we welcome these agreements and thanked the United Kingdom Government for continuing the program of economic cooperation. Mr Price said: I like to think of these agreements not of the golden handshake which is like the end of a relationship, but as a continuing program of the Commonwealth countries, in which the United Kingdom and their independent Commonwealth countries work closely together for their mutual benefit.

In reply, British High Commissioner, Mr Trew agreed that the prime minister's understanding of the nature of the agreement was entirely in accord with that of his government. Mr Trew said that the agreement should not in any way be regarded as a winding up of economic cooperation, it represents rather a commitment. The high commissioner added that the main significance of the agreement was that it was yet another act of recognition of Belize's independence. He said they are a necessary consequence of it, it is a program of economic collaboration with an independent country, had to be on the basis of an agreement with its government. [sentence as received] Mr Trew concluded by saying Belize is very fortunate in having ample resources which would ensure its future development, and he wished the government and people of Belize every success in their endeavors.

STUDENTS TO TAKE SCHOLARSHIPS IN CUBA, MEXICO

FL302215 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, 30 Oct (CANA) -- Seven students from Belize will be leaving here on Sunday to take up scholarships in medicine, engineering and physics offered by the Cuban Government at the University of Havana. The students are going to Cuba under a private agreement with the Cuban Government. Cuba had earlier offered 25 scholarships to the Government of Belize, but the government made a decision not to accept the Cuban offer as it has no diplomatic relations with Cuba.

For a number of years, Guatemala has been offering scholarships to Belizean students to study at the San Carlos University in Guatemala City under a private arrangement, with no agreement with the Belize Ministry of Education. However, following recent political developments when Belize attained independence, the Guatemalan Government kicked out of Guatemala 60 Belizean students who were on scholarships there. The Guatemalan Government is now returning the offer of the scholarships to the students if they denounce Belize's independence and voice support for the Guatemalan claim to Belize.

Meanwhile, the Mexican Government has offered 60 scholarships at the technical level to Belizean students and this is seen as a move by Mexico to provide the students kicked out of Guatemala with professional education. Yesterday, the attorney general and minister of education and sports for Belize, Mr Said Musa, met Mexican Ambassador Pedro Gonzalez Rubio here to discuss and finalize the scholarship program. The minister requested the ambassador to convey his appreciation to the Mexican Government and people for the gesture. Minister Musa and the ambassador also discussed the establishment of a Belize-Mexico cultural center in both countries to further cement their good relations.

COSTA RICA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON AIRPLANE HIJACKING

Hijackers Land in El Salvador

PA301823 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1810 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 30 Oct (LATIN-REUTER) -- Extreme rightists who hijacked a Costa Rican airplane landed in El Salvador today after releasing their hostages on the runway of the international airport in Costa Rica in exchange for six Nicaraguans who had been in prison.

A Salvadoran military spokesman said that the hijackers, apparently three men and two women, were arrested along with the released prisoners at an unidentified airstrip in El Salvador's interior.

The two pilots were authorized to return to Costa Rica. The San Jose airport control tower confirmed that the hijacked aircraft had returned without incident.

It was not immediately clear what position the Salvadoran authorities had taken with respect to the hijackers. However, reliable sources indicated that they will probably received with sympathy by the Civilian-military junta of this country, which is at odds with the leftist Government in Nicaragua.

Aircraft Returns to San Jose

PA301659 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1632 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Excerpt] Attention, listeners, the Aviocar belonging to the SANSA Company has arrived. I repeat, Captain Franco Mora and Mario Brenes arrived at 1023 at Juan Santamaria International Airport.

Radio Reloj and its newscast Radio Periodico Reloj have obtained an exclusive interview with Capt Franco Mora of SANSA, who has been involved with this drama since 1023 yesterday and at precisely that same time today has returned to Juan Santamaria International Airport.

We were unable to talk with copilot Mario Brenes, who still seemed frightened and hurried off to find his relatives and has thus been unavailable.

Pilot Comments on Hijacking

PA301746 San Jose Radio Relcj in Spanish 1636 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Interview with Capt Franco Moro, pilot of SANSA airplane which was hijacked from San Jose, Costa Rica, on his return to Juan Santamaria International Airport]

[Text] [Question] Welcome home and tell us, Franco, about the drama, particularly about the operation today that has kept all the Costa Rican people in suspense.

[Answer] Thank heavens we are back, because this has been exhausting. I must first talk with the authorities.

[Question] There was much comment here yesterday, Franco, to the effect that perhaps your experience and the fact that you remained calm may have helped make the operation successful.

[Answer] Yes, of course, because the hijackers were prepared for anything. I talked with them, asking that they allow us to leave. But they were not willing to allow anything. They would not allow anyone to leave. Then I suggested to them that the sick man and the lady with small children be allowed to leave. They did allow this.

[Question] At what time did you become aware of the hijacking yesterday?

[Answer] When [words indistinct]. Mario, the copilot, and I were talking when we heard a sound because they hit the door with a machinegun and the other [words indistinct] I took over the plane immediately.

[Question] As far as concerns the difficult evening hours, as the mechanic, Aguilar was telling us, we understood that he was the only one not being searched and who was allowed to enter and leave the plane. Perhaps they liked him, or above all, they trusted him. How did you spend those hours? No one knew what was happening in the airplane.

[Answer] It was terrible, terrible, because we could not sleep; we were uncomfortable. We protested because we needed to go to the bathroom. It was serious, serious. It is something that no one can imagine.

[Question] They said that they were going to execute the hostages in the plane. How often did they make actual threats?

[Answer] They said on several occasions that if there was no dialogue they would execute us. They made one of the Americans stand up and they were going to kill him. I suggested to them that they wait (?for the) vice president and then they changed their minds. [Words indistinct] but this make one very tense, and later when the newsmen approached, they fired at them.

[Question] Yes, those were moments of great tension. I listened to the dialogue in the control tower and you were the one manning the radio. Franco, how many hijackers were there and about how old were they?

[Answer] They were all young. They were youths: three men and two women.

[Question] Three men and two women. Did they identify themselves in any way?

[Answer] No, in no way. Now as we were returning, [words indistinct] they made us all kinds of offers, but everything came out all right.

[Question] In other words, for security reasons you cannot even tell us what country was involved. There were comments here about Honduras and El Salvador as being the Central American countries that you went to this morning.

[Answer] No, no. For security reasons, it is best that I say nothing until later.

[Question] Well, Franco, congratulations. This is the second time that you have emerged successfully from a mishap. Previously you had an emergency with the (Aerovias Cariari) Company and now you also come out successfully from this hijacking of the SANSA airplane, which began yesterday at 1023 and ended today at 1025.

President Requests Extradition

PA310308 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Tonight President Rodrigo Carazo Odio sent a telegram to Salvadoran junta President Jose Napoleon Duarte informing him that our government has begun legal steps to request the extradition of the air pirates who hijacked the Costa Rican plane yesterday morning and whose hostages were released during today's early morning hours.

President Carazo asked that the hijackers be kept under arrest. In the telegram to his colleague, Jose Napoleon Duarte is asked to keep the hijackers under arrest until our specialized offices and the judicial authorities complete the formal proceedings to request their extradition.

The twin-engined aircraft landed on a ranch in San Miguel in the eastern part of El Salvador, official sources of that country said. The five hijackers and the seven terrorists, whose release they obtained, are still under arrest.

Extradition Proceedings Begin

PA312134 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Proceedings began yesterday for extradition of the 11 members of the Nicaraguan International Salvation Against Communism who, after hijacking a SANSA airplane, flew to El Salvador, where they were arrested.

Foreign Ministry sources have said that the preparation of documents has begun, and it was reported that the Costa Rican ambassador to El Salvador was instructed to begin taking the necessary steps with that country's government.

The first documents for extradition of the hijackers and the six released prisoners will be taken to El Salvador on Monday by a Foreign Ministry official and a security agent.

HONDURAN ARMY CHIEF MEETS WITH PRESIDENT CARAZO

PA310143 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] The chief of staff of the Honduran Armed Forces, Gen Mario Enrique Chinchilla Carcamo, met yesterday with President Rodrigo Carazo to thank the Costa Rican Government for building a monument to honor the members of the Honduran Air Force, killed in an accident at Cerro de la Muerte. We accepted the invitation by the Costa Rican Government in view of the noble initiative of the Costa Rican people, General Chinchilla added. Several members of the Honduran Air Force were killed in a plane crash on 27 November 1974.

Honduran President Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia sent a message of appreciation to President Carazo for the support Honduras has always received from his government at international level. The Honduran chief of state sent a plaque for President Carazo in recognition of his identification with the problems of the isthmian countries.

General Chinchilla Carcamo said nothing had been discussed with President Carazo on the Central American situation; that it had merely been a courtesy visit.

Asked about reports that the Armies of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala would join forces to attack Nicaragua, General Chinchilla said that the reports were false and that he has no knowledge of any such plan. Honduras is a country striving for peace and respects the right of self-determination and therefore does not interfere in the internal affairs of other states, the ranking official added.

Regarding clashes on Nicaraguan border area, he said there is no conflict with that country and these sporadic incidents which come up are settled by the armed forces.

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE MINISTER NOTES STAND ON HIJACKERS

PA310337 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0238 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 30 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican licensed Aviocar flight landed today, Friday, on El Papalon runway in the jurisdiction of San Miguel, some 30 km east of San Salvador, Defense Minister Col Jose Guillermo Garcia told ACAN-EFE tonight.

The aircraft was flying from Quepos (on the Costa Rican Pacific coast) to San Jose with 10 passengers [as received] aboard when it was hijacked by anticommunist commandos.

Garcia added that "the aircraft was in Salvadoran territory for a few minutes between 0900 and 1000 (1500 and 1600 GMT) and left 11 of its occupants.

At the beginning, the Salvadoran Armed Forces ordered the destruction of the aircraft, but on realizing what it involved, the order was lifted and the Costa Rican aircraft was permitted to land, the defense minister explained.

Garcia stated that the 11 persons who alighted from the aircraft were arrested by soldiers of the 3d Infantry Brigade of the city of San Miguel and will be turned over subsequently to the respective authorities.

"We do not know what they want, what moved them to come to El Salvador. We have absolutely nothing to do with this," the ranking military officer noted.

He added that the 11 persons are at the disposition of the military authorities awaiting instructions which undoubtedly correspond to the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry.

The names of the hijackers of the Costa Rican flight and those released in exchange for the hostages were not disclosed by the Defense Ministry.

Colonel Garcia concluded: We decided to let the aircraft land in Salvadoran territory to keep from destroying it and to avoid more serious problems."

PARTIES NOT AFFECTED BY STATE OF SIEGE EXTENSION

PA292245 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1844 GMT 29 Oct 81

[Text] Attention: Here is news of great interest for citizens, particularly for the political parties:

The revolutionary government junta has issued a decree extending the state of siege for 30 days. However, the decree states that the suspension of guarantees will not be applied on the political parties which will be able to carry out their campaigning and propaganda activities without the restrictions that the suspension of guarantees establishes. In this way the revolutionary government is promoting conditions to facilitate the electoral process now underway in order to find a peaceful and democratic solution to our current crisis.

Inview of the importance of this information, we will read it again. [announcer repeats report]

REPORTAGE ON ARMED FORCES, GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

WA021300 [Editorial Report] San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 29 October, page 3 reports: At dawn, 28 October, bazooka-carrying guerrillas again attacked the railroad bridge over the Lempa River. According to reports from San Vincente, "the area around Chichontepec Volcano, between Guadalupe, Verapaz, and Nuevo Tepetitan, was the scene of heavy fighting between army troops and guerrillas who had regrouped in the mountains.... Fresh replacement troops were reported arriving today at San Vicente, as it seems the operation will last longer than expected."

The same edition of EL MUNDO, page 28, reporst that on the night of 28 October a guerrilla force attacked the 5 November hydroelectric dam installations at San Antonio de la Cruz, Chalatenango. "There were no reports of casualties."

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 31 October, pages 4 and 45 reports: "The Armed Forces' official report on the military operation on the banks of the Lempa River, which ended on Wednesday, indicates that 132 extremists were killed; 2 camps, including 2 clandestine hospitals, were dismantled; and medicine, food and weapons were confiscated. This was announced yesterday by the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA]." COPREFA reported 7 soldiers killed and 15 wounded. COPREFA indicated that the extremists "take their wounded away, to avoid demoralization," and that none were captured.

COPREFA reported that the confiscated materials includud 22 contact grenades, 8 Claymore mines, 17 rifles (including FAL, G-3, shotguns, and 22-caliber rifles), explosive devices (TNT, powdered aluminum, fuses, chorate and so forth), first aid material, medicine, rice, beans, sugar and other supplies.

COPREFA added that similar operations are underway "on the slopes of Chichontepec Volcano and in other parts of San Vinente Department, including Tecoluca, Santa Clara, San Lorenzo, San Esteban Catarina and other zones." San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 31 October, pages 4 and 13 reports:" COPREFA reported yesterday that in a military operation near Sumpul River, on the border with Honduras in Chalatenango Department, joint army and security forces ambushed and killed 40 extremists." It was believed that one of those killed was a Nicaraguan because he was carrying about 140 cordobas. M-16 rifles, Browning pistols, 22-caliber magnum revolvers and a considerable number of rounds for 81-mm mortars were confiscated.

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 2235 GMT on 31 October reports: "The Istagua Bridge, located on the road from San Martin to Suchitoto, was dynamited last night by leftists, an official Salvadoran source said today." The bridge , spanning the Sucio River in Cuscatlan Department was completely destroyed and traffic from San Martin to Suchitoto has been completely suspended.

Havana International Service in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 31 October reports: "the FMLN has denied reports issued by the armed forces of the Salvadoran regime regarding the alleged dismantling of guerrrilla camps in Cabanas Department." The FMLN claims that it did not sustain any casualties in the clashes in Cabanas, and that the Salvadoran Army lost more than 55 soldiers in the operation in Usulutan Department.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS FMLN ACTIVITIES

Eastern Front

PA311825 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Operations report (reporte operativo) from the eastern front, southern sector]

[Text] On 27 October at 0900, 60 members of the enemy forces stationed in (La Ringuera) and (La Longaniza) Cantons tried to enter El Jicaro and Alegria Cantons in the Jucuaran area. The fighting lasted 10 and 1/2 hours. Our forces forced them to retreat. In order to retreat, the enemy had to ask for mortar and grenade-launcher support. Enemy casualties could not be determined.

Also, in the southern sector of the eastern front, at 0730 an enemy military patrol was ambushed in (El Guirito) Canton on the road from El Espino to Usulutan, in the Jucuaran area, inflicting two casualties on the enemy. The enemy was riding in private vehicles. The soldiers tried to avoid falling into the trap when FMLN sharpshooters, stationed on nearby hills, opened fired on them, causing three more casualties. The survivors asked for reinforcements but the reinforcements were also attacked by our forces stationed at roadblocks on the Las Flores side road. This group also asked for artillery support in order to return to its positions in (La Longaniza) and El Espino. The fighting lasted 4 hours with the enemy sustaining 7 casualties. On our side, no casualites were reported.

Paracentral Front

PA312305 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Report from the FMLN's Anastasio Aquino paracentral front--read by announcer]

[Text] At 0630 on 27 October, a great number of troops from the eastern part of the country were deployed to our zones.

They initiated artillery fire, using 120-mm mortars and 105-mm howitzers, and began to occupy the Cantons of La Laguna, (Los Islotes) (Consuelo), (Piedras las Flores), (La Ladera), (Marquenada), San Bartolo, (Pasai), San Nicolas, (San Juan Bosco), (Armosa), (Asuncion), Buena Vista, San Felipe, El Tablon, (Santa Gertrudis), Rio Grande, and Rio Frio. The peasants living in some of these cantons were subjected to mortar fire.

Last-minute news received on 28 October indicates that on 27 October, in Mexicanos and Sacamil, the dictatorship's troops blocked the streets with tanks and began recruiting 13-year-old boys. A group of mothers went to some of the garrisons to protest this action, but they were repulsed by the dictatorship. It is expected that the operations will be repeated today.

Junta's Usulutan Actions

PA012239 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 1 Nov 81

[Text] We are currently receiving information from Usulutan that shows that the dictatorship continues to spill blood on the banks of the Lempa River. According to this report, at 1230 on Friday, 30 October, a Fouga Magister plane strafed and bombed La Loma Canton, San Agustin jurisdiction, in Usulutan Department. Afterward, the dictatorship fired 81-mm mortars from Hacienda Guajoyo, which is located on the banks of the Lempa River. During this criminal action against the civilian population in Usulutan, the dictatorship killed 17 people and injured another 5, most of them women and children.

Once again we denounce, before the world, the dictatorship's genocidal actions in Usulutan Department and throughout the nation's territory. We also reiterate our appeal that the people respond to this fascist violence with popular organization, by initiating people's committees in the neighborhoods, cantons and villages throughout the country; by increasing the circles of Radio Venceremos listeners; and finally, by joining the militias and war fronts, in order to fight and defeat death, which has now become a dictatorial government.

Ambush in San Vicente

PA012341 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 1 Nov 81

[FMLN report from San Vicente Department -- live relay]

[Text] At 1800 on Friday [as heard], 31 October 1981 , a platoon of joint FMLN forces led by Commander Alonso ambushed an enemy patrol comprising 30 soldiers, which was traveling east along km 70 of the Pan-American Highway. The enemy vehicle, originally carrying about 45 soldiers, was coming from San Vicente. Some 15 soldiers were dropped off at the San Felipe detour, to be kept there in reserve. Our combatants were waiting to ambush the vehicle about 500 meters away. After dropping the reserve soldiers off, the vehicle went on its way and fell into our ambush. An RPG-2 rocket was fired at it, hitting the enemy vehicle on its side. The attack immediately continued with rifle fire. The 30 soldiers who were still inside the vehicle responded with only a few shots. We concentrated our fire on the vehicle for about 3 minutes, not allowing the enemy soldiers to disembark. After this, the vehicle began to move slowly, carrying at least 6 casualties inside.

Our companeros then moved on to the nearby post at the San Felipe detour and conducted a harassment attack, which lasted about 10 minutes. The soldiers, who had already gone to bed and held good positions, did nothing to either advance or pursue our companeros. It has not been possible to determine whether the enemy sustained any casualties during this action. Our forces withdrew without problem or casualties.

United to fight until the final victory!
Revolution or death, we will win!

GUATEMALA

CUC GUERRILLA LEADER TOC MEDRANO TURNS HIMSELF IN

PA290445 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Oct 81 pp 2, 91

[Excerpt] Another member of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), the founder of the Committee of Peasant Unity (CUC), has surrendered to the security forces. During a press conference yesterday, he explained why he left the subversive group and he urged the guerrillas to lay down their weapons and follow his example.

He is Indian leader Emeterio Toc Medrano, originally from Santa Cruz del Quiche, who disappeared several months ago and who reportedly "had been kidnapped." He explained that he was not kidnapped but that, in view of the fear he felt, he changed addresses and decided to turn himself in to the authorities, to cooperate, in different ways, to seek reconsiliation among the Guatemalan people.

REPORTAGE ON RECENT GUERRILLA ATTACKS

WA021400 [Editorial Report] Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish on 23 October, pages 1 and 2, reports: "National policemen and guerrillas clashed in Tecpan, Guatemala, Chimaltenango Department, when 50 armed men tried to seize the town's police substation." The attack occurred at 1630 on 22 October, and lasted 30 minutes. The police did not sustain any casualties and wounded three guerrillas.

Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish at 0400 GMT on 29 October reports: Approximately 300 subversives invaded the city of Solola the night of 29 October, "hurling bombs and grenades at the headquarters of the treasury and national police, the army detachment, the departmental governor's office the Bank of Guatemala, and other public buildings and private homes." Heavy fighting took place between government forces and the guerrillas. The attackers set fire to units of the intercity bus service, trucks and small vehicles. "The number of victims has not been determined because of the confusion prevailing in Solola, but it has been confirmed that the departmental governor is among the dead."

[Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish reported at 1200 GMT on 29 October that the attackers reportedly belonged to the Poor People's Guerrilla Army.]

Paris AFP in Spanish at 0305 on 31 October reports: Army Public Relations Chief Col Jaime Rabanales "minimized the importance of the guerrilla attacks against the towns of Solola, Escuintla and Mazatenango," and reported that 26 persons had been killed, including 6 soldiers, a departmental governor, a political chief, several policemen, and civilians who were near the exploding bombs or were trapped in the armed clashes.

"The group of some 200 [as received] subversives who operated in Solola are members of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP]. However, the other groups which attacked Mazatenango and Escuintla have not been identified yet since none of the guerrilla groups has assumed responsibility for the operations."

HONDURAS

LIBERATION LEADER ON ELECTIONS, U.S. IMPERIALISM

PA020248 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Nov 81

[Interview with Octavio Perez, leader of the Morazanist Honduran Liberation Front, in Mexico; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Perez] Elections have been called for 29 November. The electoral process has developed with both charges and countercharges among the traditional parties participating in the event.

We sincerely believe that elections are not the solution for the Honduran people, because there is an insistence on the traditional system of power and the Honduran people now demand radical changes.

There is an economic crisis that seriously affects the people's resources. The provisional government follows a repressive policy, violating human rights, and implementing state terroism, and we believe that the forthcoming civilian government will not bring about any real changes.

I say this because, on the one hand, the military will hold the true power in Honduras and, on the other, the traditional parties will not change the socioeconomic structures in a way that would eliminate the underdevelopment and misery. In addition, imperialism will maintain its presence in Honduras and we all know that this means dependence, underdevelopment and misery.

[Question] Octavio, is U.S. imperialism trying to turn Honduras into a base for attacks on other Central American nations? This accusation has been made repeatedly.

[Answer] Yes, U.S. imperialism wants to turn Honduras into a sort of Central American gendarme. We observe with concern that Honduras is being used for purposes of intervention in the affairs of peoples in the area who have attained their liberation and in those of others who are about to achieve it, as in El Salvador. Imperialism is also striving to give Honduras a different image, as a democracy or as an alternative that must be followed by other peoples. But I think that this policy is doomed to failure, because it is being imposed from abroad.

[Question] Octavio, the Morazanist Honduran Liberation Front emerged 2 years ago. How has this organization developed during this period?

[Answer] We have been developing and gaining strength since then. We can say that we have advanced considerably during those 2 years. We can also say, in all sincerity, that we are now at the stage of preparing for war. This is not because we want war, but because U.S. imperialism, in alliance with a bourgeois, landholding and military oligarchy, refuses the people any right to national dignity. So the Honduran people have no alternative but to take up weapons to achieve their liberation.

[Question] How is Francisco Morazan present in the Honduran people's struggle?

[Answer] Gen Francisco Morazan, the banner raised by the Morazanist Front, is present through the struggle that he waged in his time against English colonialism. We are now waging a struggle against the primary enemy of mankind -- gringo imperialism -- which is to be blamed for our ignorance and misery. Morazan also supported the most advanced ideas of his era. We, aware of the new historical situation, subscribe to the most advanced ideas of our time.

Morazan also bequeathed his ideals and struggle to his descendants. He especially appealed to the youth. We believe that, in a certain way, we summarize this historical heritage and we try to gather and reflect it under the new conditions that exist in Honduras and in Central America.

SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON VISIT

PA302153 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Interview with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, in Tegucigalpa; no date given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Doctor, what is the reason for your visit to our country?

[Answer] I am making a 24-hour visit to Tegucigalpa. It is related to bilateral matters between Honduras and El Salvador. It deals with the commercial treaty between the two countries, which we see as suitable and which is very important for the relations between the two nations and governments. Unfortunately, for various reasons there have been some delays and, as you will find in the press communique that was just issued a few minutes ago, we have reached a definite agreement on the basis and the content of the general treaty and of the trade treaty.

[Question] What does the treaty have for the two countries, doctor?

[Answer] The press communique notes that this treaty will be signed tomorrow at 1000 during a special ceremony at the presidential house. For this reason I believe it would be appropriate to wait until the signing of the treaty to be informed of its contents. Basically, however, there is no important change from what has already been publicly announced.

The treaty has equitable conditions. It adequately regulates trade relations between the two countries. It will be up to the trade commission that has been created by the two countries to push forward the negotiations on the annexes involving the lists of products that will be subject to trade norms.

[Question] Doctor, regarding the discussions on the borders, how is that going along?

[Answer] Regarding the border issue, the border commission has been working according to its programs. As the press communique you have just read states, a work program has been prepared and this program has dispositions on border-marking work on the basis of borders that are outlined in the general peace treaty. The work of the border commission will be continued during the second half of November.

[Question] Doctor, speaking on domestic Salvadoran matters. It has been said that the guerrillas are gaining ground, that the government forces are growing weak. Is this true?

[Answer] The Government of El Salvador has absolute control over the territory, as I have said on several occasions. We are aware of the fact, and are clear on this fact, that in March the Salvadoran people will choose the road to democracy.

[Question] What social sectors are participating, as of now, in the elections process in your country?

[Answer] There are already six political parties involved in election campaign. Of course, it will be the Salvadoran people who will make the decision in the forthcoming elections in March when there will be a new constituent assembly that will set the basis the political, social and democratic organization in our country.

[Question] What about the formation of an army made up by Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to face subversion?

[Answer] El Salvador respects international laws and regulations among states. Our country believes that each country is entitled to rule its own life and to remain within its territorial limits.

[Question] Doctor, how are relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua? Will the day come when these relations will be broken?

[Answer[In politics, possibilities are always there. The attitude of the Salvadoran Government has been to strongly protest expressions and attitudes of the Nicaraguan Government toward to our domestic affairs. We don't intervene in the domestic affairs of anyone and, therefore, we have the right to demand the same treatment from all other countries.

Honduras-El Salvador Treaty

PA302326 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1515 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Interview with Honduran Foreign Secretary Col Cesar Elvir Sierra and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena after signing the bases for a bilateral trade agreement at Government House in Tegucigalpa -- relayed by San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora]

[Text] [Question] We would like to ask the two foreign ministers to address the Honduran people since today is the first anniversary of the signing of the general peace treaty between Honduras and El Salvador. Colonel, can you comment on this?

[Elvir Sierra] Thank you for mentioning this important date in the history of the relations between Honduras and El Salvador. We are today commemorating the first anniversary of the signing of the general peace treaty. It has been a very pleasant coincidence that the bases for the bilateral trade agreement between the two countries is being signed today. This shows the two government's political desire to fulfill the provisions of the general peace treaty. [Words indistinct] the path of commercial relations. It can be said that the relations between Honduras and El Salvador will be fully in effect. We will undoubtedly have to wait for the legal steps for the approval of an agreement of this nature in accordance with the constitutional norms of the country. I reiterate that it is very significant that this agreement has been signed on the anniversary of 30 October 1980, a historic date for the two peoples and governments. Thank you very much.

[Question] Will Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena say a few words now?

[Chavez Mena] I would like to once again, as I said yesterday, express an affectionate and fraternal Central American greeting to the Honduran people. As my good friend Cesar Elvir Sierra said, this is a very special date for us because it is the first anniversary of the signing of the general peace treaty. I remember that 1 year ago we ended the negotiations at 1200 in Lima and signed the treaty. That night there was a beautiful ceremony which showed Latin America how two brothers were again embracing each other and moving together toward a common and better future.

Today we have reached agreement on the essential bases that will regulate the trade relations between El Salvador and Honduras. We honestly believe that those bases respond to the needs of both peoples and governments. We believe that these foundations, based on elements of equality, justice and just distribution, will be sufficient to adequately strengthen the trade relations between the Honduran and Salvadoran peoples.

As we have indicated, this treaty will have to follow the normal procedures of an international treaty. The commission that has been appointed for such a purpose will negotiate the lists of products in the various fields and categories which the treaty establishes.

I think this is an important step. Trade is essential in relations between peoples and governments. As Foreign Secretary Elvir Sierra said, in this way we are once again contributing to strengthen relations between Honduras and El Salvador. I'm very proud and pleased to be in Honduras, where I feel like I am in my own country. Thank you very much.

MINISTER RESPONDS TO NICARAGUAN REJECTION NOTE

PA291925 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Oct 81

[Telephone interview with Foreign Affairs Secretary Col Cesar Elvir -- live]

[Excerpt] [Elvir] Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak to the Honduran people over Radio America about the communique issued by the Nicaraguan Government in response to a protest presented by the [Honduran] Foreign Affairs Secretariat. We don't have their answer in our hands, so we are reporting on events related to the specific situation to which they refer in their communique, which does not refer to all the points included in the protest of the Honduran Government.

They refer specifically to the delivery of the body in the Las Manos region. Honduras is not denying this fact. It actually refers to it in its message and gives details. What the Honduran Government is protesting are the circumstances involved in the death of the soldier, which is something else.

Regarding a lack of coordination between the Foreign Affairs Secretariat and the general staff, this is completely false. The Foreign Affairs Secretariat has maintained close communication with the general staff, and all the information we provided in the protest note was provided by the general staff itself. Everything mentioned there represents violations of the integrity and national sovereignty of Honduras. Therefore, there can be no agreement on [words indistinct] for the Honduran Government not filing a protest against such big [word indistinct].

In stating this, we think we are reporting what the Nicaraguan Government refers to as the main aspect of the protest, but it is actually referring to only one of the points of the protest.

I thank Radio America for this opportunity to make this clarification for the Honduran people.

[Question] Fine, Mr Foreign Secretary. We believe that your clarification is valid, because the points in the official Honduran protest referred to the reiterated incursions that Sandinist Army elements have made into Honduran territory, in obvious violation of our sovereignty.

The point you have cleared up is the point on soldier Manuel Carias and, as you say, the important matter is how and why this soldier died. Is there anything else in this regard, Mr Foreign Secretary?

[Answer] No. The Foreign Affairs Secretariat will expand on this once it receives the answer from Nicaragua.

[Question] I want to take advantage of this communication to touch on a subject for which we have criticized your office. It deals with a Honduran island that has not been sold yet, but appears for sale in a specialized U.S. magazine -- ISLA MORAT. Would you be kind enough to refer to this point? Has the Foreign Affairs Secretariat done anything in this regard?

[Answer] Yes. The Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat has investigated this. But the truth is that it does not yet have any legal basis for [words indistinct] and for this reason we have taken no action. We have information from our representatives in the United States, the embassy and consulates in places where the sales offer appears.

NICARAGUA

JUDGE SENTENCES DETAINED COSEP, CAUS LEADERS

PA300350 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Oct 81

[Excerpt] A criminal judge handed down prison sentences for the imprisoned members of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] and Nicaraguan Communist Party [PCdeN]. The First Criminal Judge of Managua District Felix Trejos Trejos revealed the sentence of the COSEP and PCdeN prisoners.

Today at noon the defense attorney of several COSEP leaders, Guillermo Vargas Sandino, had expressed his confidence that the arraigned prisoners would be released because of the proof of innocence presented in their favor. However, the criminal judge considered that there was sufficient cause to order the imprisonment of those arrested. The COSEP leaders were given 60 days and the communists were given 7 months.

We shall now hear First Criminal Judge Felix Trejos reading the sentence:

[Begin recording] Today at 0800 the notification text was ready. I shall read only the [words indistinct] part according to the statute of rights and guarantees of Nicaraguans, the law for the maintenance of order and public security in its amendments, Decree No 812 of 1971 and Decree 148 of 1969 and its amendments. The undersigned judge has sentenced according to the body of laws of Nicaragua:

1. The defendants in this cause are (Jose Bolanos Davis), married adult, industrial engineer by profession, Masaya [words indistinct].

2. [Words indistinct] of the crimes punished by paragraphs C and F of the social and economic emergency law, as was processed by the prosecuting attorney of the republic.

3. That [words indistinct] Enrique Dreyfus Morales, Benjamin Lanza Selva and Gilberto Cuadra Solorzano, all married adults, living and [words indistinct] are absolved of the crimes punished in paragraphs C and H of the economic and social emergency law of which they were accused by the penal attorney of the republic.

4. Eli Altamirano, Allan Zambrana Zeledon, Roberto Moreno (Cabinas) are absolved of the crime [applause] punished in item C, part 3, of the social and economic emergency law of which they were accused.

5. Each of these persons, Eli Altamirano Perez, Enrique Dreyfus Morales, Allan Zambrana Zeledon, Gilberto Cuadra Solorzano, Jamileth Bonilla Madrigal, Benjamin Lanza Selva and Roberto Moreno (Cabinas) are each sentenced to the following punishment:

A. Sixty days of arrest and public works for each of the crimes of publishing written statements and declarations which threaten:
1. National security and the economy
2. Defense, order and prevention of crime

B. Forty-five days of arrest and public works for each of the crimes for publishing written statements and declarations which threaten:
1. The dignity of persons and
2. The authorities

These are sanctioned in items 1, 2, 3 and 4 of item C of part 4 of the law for the maintenance of order and public security of which they were accused by the prosecuting attorney. Therefore, each of these prisoners must serve 210 days of arrest and public works for having been found guilty of these crimes.

6. Each of these gentlemen, Eli Altamirano Perez, Allan Zambrana Zeledon and Roberto Moreno (Cabinas) is sentenced to 29 months in prison for having been found guilty of crimes sanctioned by item F or part 3 of the economic and social emergency law of which they were accused.

7. [Words indistinct] law, copy and notify, the parties are warned that they have the right to appeal between [words indistinct] of 1981. [end recording]

Radio Corporacion has broadcast the sentences by First Criminal Judge, Judge Trejos Trejos of the COSEP and CAUS [Labor Action and Unity Federation] officials.

COSEP Leaders to Appeal

PA310117 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] Guillermo Vargas Sandino today will appeal the sentence passed by Judge Trejos Trejos against his defendants, Enrique Dreyfus and Benjamin Lanza, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise and president of the Construction Chamber, respectively.

Shortly after having learned of the sentence, Vargas Sandino said it was unjust because he continues to believe that both Dreyfus and Lanza Selva are innocent of the charges, presented by the departmental attorney, of having violated law for the maintenance of order and public security.

The defense lawyer said that, in his writs and evidence, he had amply shown that the defendants had at no time tried to destabilize the revolutionary process and that, on the contrary, in their efforts abroad they had always tried to obtain all possible aid for Nicaragua.

Attorney Vargas Sandino said that he hopes that the Court of Appeals will reverse the sentence and that every possible legal means will be used to obtain his clients release since they are neither repeat offenders nor have they maintained bad conduct.

It was also understood that attorneys (Enrique Meneses Pena), (Victor Manuel Espinoza Pao) and (Ignacio Miranda Chamorro) will also appeal the sentence passed by the judge against the [words indistinct] Gilberto Cuadra, president of the Confederation of Nicaraguan Professional Associations; and that the defense team for Allan Zambrana, Eli Altamirano and Jamileth Bonilla will do likewise.

ADDITIONAL COSEP, CAUS MEMBERS TO STAND TRIAL

PA311705 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] The district attorney's office will file formal charges with the first criminal judge against three other members of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] and three members of the politicized leadership of the Labor Action and Unity Federation [CAUS] who have escaped revolutionary justice.

The COSEP suspects are Ramiro Gurdian, Jaime Benegoechea and Reinaldo Hernando. The CAUS members are (Ariel Bravo), (Alvin Salinas) and Ramon Quintanilla.

Judge Trejos said that, based on legal provisions, the COSEP and CAUS members will be summoned to appear before him by judicial notices. He added that the laws grant them 15 days to personally answer the charges; otherwise they will be assigned a public defender and will be further charged with contempt of court.

OFFICIAL REACTION TO BREAK WITH JAMAICA, DETAILS

FL301242 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text Of undated Cuban Foreign Ministry statement]

[Text] The Jamaican Government's decision yesterday to break relations with Cuba and expel all Cuban personnel working in the country interrupts the official ties established between the two countries at the diplomatic level in 1972. Since then, these ties materialized in areas as important as education and public health, demonstrated in the schools built and the selfless and disinterested work that our doctors, technicians and health specialists have been doing the length and breadth of that sister Caribbean nation.

The facts speak eloquently of this solidary assistance. Cuba donated 3 secondary schools for 1,200 students and a high school for sports education for 600 students, built 14 houses and six microdams and donated the equipment for the latter project. Cuba also donated five plants for prefao structures, a sports complex, 50 tractors with spare parts, and 26,000 cases of condensed milk when Hurricane Allen hit. Our doctors examined more than 1 million patients, averaging 22,000 monthly visits. One thousand students were trained in construction, sports, fishing and health.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry recalls that the current prime minister of Jamaica, faithful to his proimperialist inclination, centered his electoral platform on anticommunism and a demented anti-Cuban campaign, threatening to declare the Cuban ambassador persona non grata if his party won the coming election. This he carried out as soon as he was sworn in as prime minister. Since then Mr Seaga has been engaged in systematically attacking Cuba in an apparent desire to become the most loquacious mouthpiece for imperialism in the Caribbean.

Nevertheless, the Cuban Government consistently tried and acted to maintain normal relations with Jamaica because they are in the interest of the two peoples and continued technical assistance and completed the construction of the schools at the request of the Jamaican Government.

The pretexts used by Mr Seaga to break relations are so clumsy that they do not deserve comment. But it was not by chance that Mr Seaga was the first to visit the just-inaugurated U.S. President, who saw him as the model of what the imperialists believe a Caribbean ruler should be. Mr Seaga, unable to solve the pressing problems crushing Jamaican society, has not hesitated in satisfying the interests of U.S. imperialism in detriment to the genuine desires of the Jamaican people, trying to dismiss the historic and solid ties that bind the peoples of the Caribbean. He is responsible for this deplorable action.

The break of relations was executed by Seaga but was decreed in Washington. It is a further step in the aggressive and anti-Cuban strategy of the Yankee government. Mr Seaga follows Washington's orders to help create a climate of hostility toward Cuba and justify the threats that Mr Haig keeps uttering tirelessly against our people. Just as Mr Haig cannot and will not be able to answer Cuba's challenge, Mr Seaga will be unable to respond to the question posed by Caribbean peoples: Who ordered Jamaica's break in relations with Cuba?

Mexico To Handle Cuban Affairs

PA312131 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Mexico will take care of Cuban affairs in Jamaica, the Cuban revolutionary government has decided, in view of the Jamaican authorities' unilateral break of diplomatic relations with Cuba. Beginning today, Saturday, all property and areas in Jamaica falling under Cuban diplomatic jurisdiction will come under the Mexican Embassy's provisional control. Meanwhile, the Mexican and Panamanian ambassadors accompanied the Cuban diplomats to the airport for their return to Cuba.

Leaders of the Jamaican Workers' Party and the People's National Party and of their youth organizations also bade farewell to the Cuban officials.

AFP Report

PA010045 Paris AFP in Spanish 1922 GMT 31 Oct 81

[By Pierre Cayrol]

[Text] Havana, 31 Oct (AFP) -- Observers have stressed that Cuba is mobilizing. The island is preparing to react to any U.S. actions. The headlines in today's newspapers in Havana, showing scenes of daily life, leave no doubt in this regard.

GRANMA, the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] newspaper, published five frontpage reports, all of which, with the exception of one referring to El Salvador, point out the danger of a war with the United States.

"The weapons and the tools are ready," the official PCC organ said, in a two-column headline. "If Cuba is attacked, the fatherland will be proud of us. Without fear, we will be ready for combat," states another headline in GRANMA, which cited a resolution of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) National Committee's 12th plenum.

The other two Havana newspapers express the same trend, since they also issue a call for vigilance and for defense of the revolution.

This sudden outburst of indignation and protest has not surprised observers, who believe it to be the logical result of the latest threats issued against Cuba by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. In a press conference in Washington on Thursday, Haig announced that the United States will adopt "measures" against Cuba. He didn't indicate what kind of measures these will be, since he said that President Ronald Reagan will make the "final decisions."

As was to be expected, Cuba reacted to those statements immediately. It reacted in the newspapers, as well as in the streets. It is learned from reliable sources that many reservists have been called up, although their number and the exact reasons for this partial mobilization are unknown. Meanwhile, no official comment has been made in this regard. The information was not disclosed by the radio, press or television. A military secret, without doubt. Another apparent indication of mobilization is the number of unscheduled rallies held in most of the enterprises in Havana today. All of these rallies had the objective of confirming the Havana workers' total support for the violently anti-U.S. speech delivered by President Fidel Castro on 24 October.

At the same time, the unions organized mass demonstrations on the same subject today. Chanting "Fidel, Fidel," hundreds of persons marched through various streets of Havana.

The impact of Haig's statements and the paranoid fear of a U.S. action were clearly shown during some cultural events. For example, yesterday, at the end of a performance of the National Ballet of Cuba, the dancers, choreographers and technicians appeared on stage to announce their determination to defend the revolution in case of danger and a speech was read that ended with these words: "Commander in chief, you order."

RALLY HELD IN SUPPORT OF CASTRO CDR SPEECH

FL311790 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1510 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Hundreds of workers of the Foreign Ministry, the National Institute of Tourism and the Casa de las Americas took to the streets in the Vedado section chanting slogans in support of Fidel's closing speech at the second congress of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

They first took part in a mass rally held behind the Foreign Ministry building presided over by Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign relations. They then headed for the party's municipal committee in Plaza de la Revolucion carrying signs that read: We'll defend our socialism at any cost; we are an unyielding people; commander in chief, at your command. Addressing the rally were (Maria Elena Carballes) for the trade union, Mario Perez in name of the young and outstanding worker Carlos (Lastra), all of whom expressed support for the revolution.

'CHALLENGE' TO SECRETARY HAIG RENEWED IN GRANMA

FL301153 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Statement published in 30 October issue of GRANMA, official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, entitled "Imperialism Responds With Insolence and Threats When Caught in a Lie"]

[Text] On Wednesday, 28 October, when GRANMA carried the Cuban Government's forceful challenge, Mr Haig evaded the issue. A spokesman of his, someone named (Fisher), merely said that the Cuban declaration was a simple propaganda maneuver. They did not respond nor could they respond to any one of the specific points set forth by Cuba. Not yet recovered from his bewilderment and embarrassment, Mr Haig spoke again, on the 29th, in insolent and threatening terms against our homeland, using language that cannot be termed other than slanderous, arrogant and fascist.

Last night, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE carried a Washington-datelined report that says textually: Washington, 29 October, AFP -- U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig today accused Cuban President Fidel Castro of increasing his "interventionist activities" in Central America and hinted that the United States was on the verge of adopting responsive measures. It is clear that Castro is increasingly involved in interventionist activities in the region, Haig said at a State Department press conference. When asked what the United States planned to do, the secretary of state answered that U.S. review of Cuban policy had just concluded but that he could not comment until President Reagan had made the final decisions. The AFP report ends here.

Once again Mr Haig resorts to lies, slander and devious and vague statements. Once again, as usual, he covers up the truth and refuses to speak with clarity and precision, without hesitation, subterfuge or stammerings. He has yet to respond to the challenge that Comrade Fidel and the revolutionary government have laid down in a clear, direct, precise language on specific issues while accusing him of being an habitual liar.

We again challenge him to answer whether he can keep saying that Cuba landed between 500 and 600 soldiers in Nicaragua, whether the United States has proof of this claim, whether he communicated this report to other governments, saying that he had proof and coupling this with his well-known and coarse lies. Let him say on what day, what time, in what planes these men landed as he claims. Let him present proof.

What is clear is that the imperialists hurl baseless accusations, resort to slander and deceit without blushing, without the slightest respect for public opinion or for truth. Like rats in a garbage dump, they delight in their own lies. And following the teachings of their teacher, Goebbels, they think that to deceive people it is enough to lie, to lie always, to repeat and repeat lies and the bigger the lies the better.

What is clear is that Mr Haig will never be able to prove any of his dirty accusations against Cuba. He will be unable to prove them because they are false, entirely false, from beginning to end.

What does it mean that the United States is on the verge of taking responsive action? It is evident that Mr Haig is trying to threaten us. But no one can threaten our people. Our people have clearly and loudly told the imperialists that we do not fear them, that our readiness to defend the fatherland and the revolution to the last man and woman is a decision that is final, unanimous and as firm as a rock. That is something that Mr Haig should clearly understand.

Let the U.S. Government respond, in clear terms, to the Cuban Government's explicit challenge if it can. Let it stop shamelessly deceiving the U.S. people and world opinion.

JAMAICA

REPORTAGE, REACTION CONTINUE IN BREAK WITH CUBA

Radio Report

FL301557 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] Jamaica and Cuba have broken off diplomatic relations. In a statement to Parliament and the nation yesterday, Prime Minister Seaga said the decision had been taken because of Cuba's interference in Jamaica's domestic affairs. Mr Seaga said since he returned to the island, he had been brought up to date on what is now called the Paul Burke affair and he was satisfied that the three most wanted men, Anthony Brown, George Flash and Michael Anderson, are being sheltered by the Cuban Government.

The chairman of the PNP [People's National Party] youth organization, Paul Burke, had been questioned by the police after he was found in possession of tapes and letters which Mr Seaga said had the voice of Brown and were written by Flash and Anderson.

Prime Minister Seaga said that since taking office last year, his government had made efforts to maintain friendly relations with Cuba and had made it clear that the government did not tolerate any interference by Cuba in our domestic affairs. Mr Seaga said that as far as the three wanted men are concerned they could not be in Cuba without the knowledge of the Cuban Government. The prime minister said the three men are dangerous criminals and their presence in Cuba is with the complicity of the Cuban Government. Mr Seaga also mentioned the role of the opposition in the whole affair, pointing to their failure to disassociate themselves from Paul Burke. He said the discovery of the tape and letters in the possession of Burke exposes the role and conduct of the opposition and the linkage with Cuba.

Prime Minister Seaga said the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Shearer, was informed of the situation and the Cuban charge d'affaires has been ordered to close the embassy and leave the country. And the Jamaican Embassy in Havana has been instructed to do the same.

Meanwhile, the opposition PNP is (?to hold) a press conference today to make public details of an emergency meeting called by the party last night to discuss Mr Seaga's announcement in Parliament. In a statement yesterday, the PNP said it forcefully condemned the decisions by the government to sever diplomatic relations with Cuba. The (?party) statement was made through General Secretary D.K. Duncan. [Begin recording] The PNP totally condemns both the decision by the Jamaican Labor Party government to break diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba as well as the fictitious argument given to Parliament and the nation to justify allegations of interference. The leadership of the party will be meeting in emergency session to discuss the implications of this irresponsible decision as well as the continuous slander against the party and members of its leadership. The results of these deliberations will be made public at a press conference to be called by the party. [end recording]

Embassy Personnel Only

FL311712 Bridgetown CANA in English 1646 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 31 Oct (CANA) -- Jamaica's Foreign Ministry has said that the decision to break diplomatic ties with the Cuban Government involved the recall of embassy personnel only and not to all Cuban personnel operating locally.

The statement, made in the wake of the departure of 25 Cuban doctors who had been working in urban and rural hospitals, said the decision that all Cuban personnel should return to Havana had been taken by the Cuban Government, not the Jamaican Government.

Cuban personnel, including the doctors who have been working Jamaica under bilateral agreement, left Jamaica yesterday, well within the 48-hour deadline set by Prime Minister Edward Seaga when he announced the severing of relations on Thursday afternoon. Mr Seaga ordered Jamaican Embassy staff in Havana home within the same 48-hour period, and said the British Embassy there would oversee Jamaican interests in the future. The Jamaican Government decision followed Cuba's failure to accede to a demand that three Jamaican criminals, alleged to be in Cuba, be returned home within 24 hours of 1300 hours Wednesday, Mr Seaga said.

PNP on Break

FL303254 Bridgetown CANA in English 2321 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 30 Oct (CANA) -- The opposition People's National Party (PNP) today condemned Jamaica's decision yesterday to end diplomatic relations with Cuba and said it would reestablish relations if returned to office. "An unreasonable government has taken a precipitious step and a very serious one," PNP Chairman Dudley Thompson told newsmen. Mr Thompson commented on government's allegation that the Cuban Government was harboring three of Jamaica's most wanted men. No proof had been supplied to back this contention, he added. The PNP chairman said the PNP was against any kind of criminal trying to evade the law. He asid that a reasonable government would have engaged in diaglogue and offered evidence rather than making demands within an unreasonable period of time.

The government summoned the Cuban charge d'affaires on Wednesday and handed him a letter for his foreign minister which said the Jamaicans were to return within 24 hours. On Thursday, Mr Seaga said the request had not been complied with and the embassy must be closed and the staff gone within 48 hours. The Jamaica diplomatic staff in Havana were given a similar deadli e to return home.

The PNP also denied a suggestion by Prime Minister Edward Seaga that it was possibly linked with the issue which has prompted it to sever diplomatic ties with Cuba. PNP General Secretary D. K. Duncan also referred to police reports that a tape recording and several letters found in the possession of PNP youth organization Chairman Paul Burke originated from the three wanted men -- Anthony Brown, George Flash and Michael Anderson -- and indicated their presence in Cuba. The JLP, Dr Duncan said, appeared to be trying "to link the chairman of the youth organization with terrorists, the terrorists with the Cuban Government, establish collision by the PNP leadership as a basis for the break and no doubt the start of repressive activities against the PNP and its leadership."

"For the record," he said, "we would like to make it very clear that the PNP has no knowledge of or dealings with terrorists here or in any other country. We reject the lies being perpetrated against the youth organization chairman and retain full confidence in him, and confidence in the integrity of the Cuban Government and the traditionally fraternal and principled relations it has had with Jamaica." He said the government's action would not intimidate the PNP nor hold back a program of rebuilding which it was undertaking in the wake of last year's sweeping electoral defeat, nor would it destroy ties with Cuba nor the socialist movement in Jamaica. "Let there be no mistake," he said, "that as soon as the People's National Party returns to power in this country as it must, we shall reestablish diplomatic links with the Republic of Cuba immediately."

"In the meantime, in an effort to continue and consolidate our relations in this period of tribulation, we will be sending a high level delegation to Cuba next week," he added. The PNP demanded that government allow the opposition equal time, free of cost, to answer charges made by the prime minister through the electronic media as well as a full parliamentary debate on the matter, safe conduct for all Cubans leaving Jamaica, a statement ensuring freedom of movement to Cuba for any Jamaicans wishing to go there and an assurance that there will be no repetition of past JLP government action in seizing the passports of people traveling to Cuba.

The PNP officials suggested that the central issue at stake was non-recovery of the Jamaican economy after a year of JLP government, and described the government's move as a "smoke screen" to divert public attention. The PNP pointed to the large number of patients in several Jamaican hospitals who had depended on the Cuban doctors, estimating that Cuban doctors had seen on average 22,000 patients each month since 1976. The party also recalled Cuba providing construction aid worth more than 40 million dollars (1 JCA dollar: 56 cents U.S.), food aid and programs of joint cooperation which had been started between the two countries. "Such is the record of assistance," Dr Duncan said.

The PNP general secretary was asked whether the party believed that the government action could have been encouraged by the Reagan administration with which the Seaga government has close ties. "The United States has inspired such activities in many other countries," he said. "We cannot say if this is so in this case, but intelligent people can ask the question."

PNP's Manley Returns

FL302315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2310 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 30 Oct (CANA) -- Opposition leader Michael Manley will interrupt a lecture tour of North America following the Jamaica Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Cuba, People's National Party (PNP) General Secretary D.K. Duncan said today. Mr Duncan said Mr Manley would be returning to Jamaica next week Sunday and would be speaking with sections of the foreign press on the matter this weekend.

Jamaica yesterday announced it was ending diplomatic relations with Cuba and charged that the Cuban Government was supporting three dangerous criminals in Cuba. The ruling Labor Party had also suggested that the opposition could have been involved in the development.

Mr Manley left for the 4-week visit to Canada and the United States last weekend.

WPJ Statement

FL311557 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] The Workers Party of Jamaica [WPJ] has strongly condemned the Edward Seaga government for its unilateral decision to break diplomatic relations with Cuba. The party charges that this is an action by Seaga aimed at winning favors from the U.S. Government in its undeclared war against Cuba. The WPJ says that the step taken by Seaga is also the beginning of an anticommunist campaign designed to cover up for the continual failure of the government to improve the conditions of the Jamaican people. The WPJ notes that the break is not in the interest of the people. It adds: It takes us once again to the worst of colonial times.

In a press communique the party recalled Cuba's generous aid to the Jamaican people as demonstrated in the building of schools, medical training and other cooperation projects. It adds: Neither can we forget the vital role that Cuba plays in defending our black brothers in Africa against the South African racists who are supported by U.S. imperialism which Seaga now wants to please.

The National Executive Committee of the People's National Party of Jamaica also expressed its total support and solidarity for Cuba in face of Prime Minister Edward Seaga's unilateral decision to break relations with Cuba.

Newspaper Seeks Details

FL311755 Bridgetown CANA in English 1712 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 31 Oct (CANA) -- The Jamaica DAILY NEWS today said in an editorial that while the government might have acted precipitately in severing relations with Cuba this week, the allegations on which the decision was based had not been denied by the Cuban Government.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said on Thursday that the decision followed the failure of the Cuban Government to accede to Jamaica's demands that three wanted men, alledgedly offered refuge in Cuba, be returned within 24 hours of 1300 hours Wednesday. The decision was announced on Thursday afternoon. Urging citizens to be rational rather than emotional and partisan in the debates following the announcement, the DAILY NEWS said certain concerns were starting to come to the fore. "One has to do with the seeming abruptness with which the government required Cuba to return Anthony Brown, George Flash and Michael Anderson." The paper added: "Granted the tight organization of Cuban society, was it reasonable to expect the government to return the three men within 24 hours? Would not the Jamaican Government be more even-handed in allowing 48 or 72 hours for the Cuban Government to comply?"

The DAILY NEWS also took note of Prime Minister Seaga's statement that for security reasons, he would not provide additional information on the Cuban involvement with Jamaica's internal affairs or on alleged links between this involvement and the opposition People's National Party (PNP) which, he implied, was implicated. "There are those who see this as merely a device, while others are speculating on what the rest of the information would be. It is of course in the hands of the government to clear up the matter as fully as possible within as short a period as possible," the paper said. It suggested that the government could resolve any shadowy doubts lingering in the minds of Jamaicans by providing additional information as quickly as possible.

GLEANER'S Comment

FL301543 Bridgetown CANA English 1541 GMT 30 Oct 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 30 Oct (CANA) -- The GLEANER, in the wake of the Jamaican Government's decision to break diplomatic ties with Cuba, today urged Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga to keep people informed about steps to safeguard the security of the society without abrogating the rights of the citizens.

Jamaica yesterday announced it had broken off ties with Cuba because Havana was harboring Jamaican criminals.

In an unusual front page editorial today, the GLEANER described the Jamaican Government decision as a grave step. But it said Prime Minister Seaga had given, in Parliament, what appeared to be compelling reasons why such drastic diplomatic action was necessary.

Mr Seaga, who expelled Cuban Ambassador Ulises Estrada from Jamaica as his first act on coming to power late last year, said yesterday that his government had nonetheless been prepared to maintain friendly relations with the neighboring Caribbean island.

But, he said, the Cuban Government could not be unaware of the presence in their country of three of Jamaica's most wanted men, and a request for their extradition had not been met within 24 hours.

"Now that the Jamaica Government says it has evidence that three wanted murderers are being given refuge in Cuba and in the face of that government's non-response to the request to turn them over to the Jamaican authorities, this government had no choice but to break off relations," the GLEANER commented. "The first duty of this or any government is the security of the nation for without security it cannot prosper," the GLEANER added. It noted that Mr Seaga had described his revelations to Parliament as "the tip of the iceburg."

The daily paper, which today filled its entire front page with news in relation to the government decision, said that Cuba's relations with two Latin American states -- Costa Rica and Colombia -- breaking off diplomatic relations with Cuba within the past 2 months.